

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-14

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 FILE-01 SSO-00 ADP-00 /017 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/ S- O JMCGUNNIGLE

APPROVED BY: S/ S- O RWRIGHT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

INFO USDEL SAN CLEMENTE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 060042

TOSEC 59

WHITE HOUSE PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY ROGER S IN SAN CLEMENTE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE AND DOD WASHDC FROM TRIPOLI
APR 01 REPEATD YOU:

QUOTE

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0394

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MOPS NATO LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN ATTACK ON C-130

REF: STATE 056653

THE ACCOUNT OF LIBYAN ATTACK ON U. S. C-130
PRESENTED REFTEL RAISES A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS THAT
WE SUGGEST SHOULD BE CLARIFIED OR MORE CAREFULLY
PHRASED BEFORE THE INCIDENT IS SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED
WITH OTHER GOVTS IN A NATO CONTEXT, NOT TO MENTION
THE BILATERAL OR POSSIBLE UN CONTEXTS:

A. ROUTE OF C-130 PREVIOUS TO ITS INTERCEPTION.

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B. DEFINITION OF " INTERCEPTION" AND WHERE IT OCCURRED.

C. POSITION OF FIRING " APPROXIMATELY 104 NM NORTHEAST OF TRIPOLI, LIBYA, AND 83 NM AT THE CLOSEST POINT OFF LIBYAN COAST". ASSUME REFERENCE IS TO 104 NM FROM TRIPOLI VOR REPEAT VOR, AT TIA, WHICH IS ABOUT 17 NM INLAND FROM COAST TO NORTHEAST (I. E. FROM ' UQBA AIR BASE). OTHERWISE THE REFERENCE TO 83 NM FROM COAST IS WAY OFF. IF OUR ASSUMPTION CORRECT, FIRING OCCURRED AT ABOUT 80 REPEAT 80 NM OFF NEAREST POINT OF COAST (A POINT ABOUT 33 NM EAST OF TRIPOLI).

D. LIBYAN UNAWARENESS OF NATIONALITY OF TARGET. PERHAPS THERE ARE TACTICAL REASONS TO INDICATE THIS, BUT THEY ESCAPE US. NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE REASONS TO BELIEVE IN LIBYAN AWARENESS, SO DO THE GREEKS AND FRENCH. DON' T WE STAND TO LOSE CREDIBILITY, AND WEAKEN OUR CASE AGAINST LARG, IF WE BLINK AT THE CONSIDERABLE EVIDENCE THE LARAF KNEW WHAT IT WAS DOING (BUT NATURALLY WAS NOT SAYING SO FOR ALL TO HEAR)?
JOSIF

UNQUOTE RUSH

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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